

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9579

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7514

FOR UNDERSECRETARY SISCO AND AMB VANCE FROM JOVA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJ: PRESIDENCY OF CND

REF: STATE 198161

1. MY STAFF AND I UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE FORTHCOMING POSITION TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH RESPECT TO OJEDA PAULLADA'S CANDIDACY AS CND PRESIDENT, TREATING THAT CANDIDACY AS IT DOES AS A SPECIAL CASE BASED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE U.S.-MEXICAN COOPERATION IN CONTROLLING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC. NEVERTHELESS, I AM CONCERNED THAT CASTRO Y CASTRO MAY DRAW A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENCE CONCLUSION FROM THE PRESENTATION OF OUR POSITION AS OUTLINED REFTTEL, NAMELY THAT THE "EXTRADORDINARY SITUATION" AFFECTING OUR VIEW OF HIS CANDIDACY ACTUALLY LEAVES HIM WHERE HE WAS BEFORE -- DEPENDENT ON SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW IN MEXICO'S FAVOR.

2. I WOULD NOT FOR A MOMENT WISH TO UNDERESTIMATE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING SATISFACTORY SYSTEM OF COOPERATION WITH OTHER CND MEMBERS, INCLUDING SOVIET UNION, AND OF ADHERING INsofar AS POSSIBLE TO COMMISSION'S RULES OF SUCCESSION. I AM NEVERTHELESS STRUCK FORCEFULLY BY TWO FACTS: (A) THAT COMMISSION'S PURPOSE AND FUNCTION ARE SO CLOSELY RELATED
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TO AN SPECT OF U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE

TO OUR COUNTRY; AND (B) THAT CND IS ONE OF FEW INTERNATIONAL FORUMS TODAY IN WHICH WE AND MEXICO FIND OURSELVES IN FUNDAMENTAL AGREEMENT. I WONDER THEREFORE WHETHER WE ARE EVEN YET EXPLOITING MEXICO'S CND CANDIDACY AS FULLY AS WE MIGHT TO OUR OWN ADVANTAGE.

3. THE THOUGHT OCCURS TO ME THAT SOVIETS THEMSELVES, WITH A LITTLE URGING, MIGHT BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND MORE CLEARLY THE VITAL INTEREST WE HAVE IN COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH MEXICO ON NARCOTICS PROBLEMS. PERHAPS WE COULD HELP MEXICANS TO ENHANCE PROSPECTS FOR THEIR CANDIDACY BY OURSELVES "INQUIRING" AS TO SOVIET WILLINGNESS. TO DEFER ELEVATION OF THEIR CANDIDATE FOR ONE YEAR. WE COULD EXPLAIN TO SOVIETS OUR INTEREST IN THE OJEDA CANDIDACY AS WELL AS OUR DEPT DESIRE NOT TO OFFEND IN ANY WAY SOVIET CANDIDATE, BUT INDICATING THAT (PROVIDING SOVIETS WERE WILLING) WE COULD PERHAPS EVEN JOINTLY PROPOSE SUCH AN ACCOMMODATION FOR MEXICO IN VIEW OF THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVED. WE WOULD OF COURSE ALSO ASSURE THEM OF OUR WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT FOR SOVIET PRESIDENCY DURING FOLLOWING YEAR.

4. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT EVEN IF SUCH AN "INQUIRY" COMES TO NAUGHT, MERELY TO HAVE MADE IT WOULD PUT US IN STRONGER POSITION WITH THE MEXICANS. ON THE OTHER HAND, PERHAPS THE INQUIRY ITSELF WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN MOVING THE MATTER FORWARD.

5. AS THIS MATTER HAS NOT COME UP DURING PARSONS' VISIT, I WOULD PREFER DELAYING PRESENTING CASTRO Y CASTRO WITH DEPARTMENT'S CURRENT POSITION ON HIS CANDIDACY UNTIL POSSIBILITY OF OUR APPROACHING SOVIET UNION ON MEXICO'S BEHALF HAS BEEN CONSIDERED. KINDLY ADVISE.
JOVA

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